



Message
from Director



MO'OLELO PĀKA (PARK STORY)

Quarterly newsletter from the City and County of
Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation
January through March 2019

We hope that you will enjoy our new DPR Staff Newsletter which will be done quarterly. It's been an honor and an amazing journey to be a part of the DPR 'Ohana! As I reflect back, it is easy to see how you have all made a positive difference in our communities by providing quality parks, facilities, botanical gardens, services, and programs. We have completed the new DPR Functional Plan, which will help us to understand all that our department does what we plan to do in the future to best serve our communities. DUF Staff recently finished the final draft of the Urban Tree Plan, which will be used to help with our tree initiatives outlined in the "Announcements" section. I recently had the opportunity to network with various parks and recreation professionals in the western region, and they were impressed by the Mayor's Kākou for Parks Program. We will provide the latest progress of this unparalleled program at the end of each newsletter. I hope that these quarterly updates will help you to connect with the rest of the department and stay informed so we can all be ambassadors of our parks. That way, we continue to truly live our DPR motto, "We add quality to life!"



Outstanding Employee:

Brandon Au

Division of Urban Forestry

With nearly 20 years of experience in DPR, Brandon is an immensely valuable resource to the city. As head of the Nursery and Landscape Section of the Horticulture Services Branch, Brandon helps to manage some of the 250,000 street and park trees around O'ahu. He is truly the go-to guy when it comes to planting trees effectively. Through his tireless efforts to keep O'ahu green, Brandon was the DPR Employee of the Year in 2018. Mahalo for all of your hard-work Brandon!

"We add quality to life!"



Kualoa/Hakipu'u Canoe Festival

March 9

Celebrating its 10th year at Kualoa Regional Park, the canoe fest hosted hundreds of participants who enjoyed a beautiful day learning and experiencing Hawaiian ocean culture with free sailing, paddling, demonstrations, and live hula and music.



50th Senior Valentine Dance

February 4

With hundreds of kūpuna from 31 senior groups participating in this annual tradition, this Golden Anniversary of this heartfelt event was a blast! We hope it continues for another 50 years.



Emergency Storm Response

February 9

Severe weather resulted in the Division of Urban Forestry responding to some 90 tree-related incidents, while our permits team assisted with the suspension of camping permits and staff was ready to operate emergency shelters.



Lei Court Selection

March 2

Our 2019 Lei Court was selected during a beautiful event at Kapolei Hale. From left to right: 1st Princess Brittanie Corpus, Queen Nicole Nakamatsu, & Princess Naiya Kuwaye-Naehu.



'A'ala Dog Park Opened

March 11

Through a private-public partnership, DPR blessed and opened its 5th off-leash dog park. Over \$40,000 in contributions from the 'A'ala Dog Park Association and American Savings Bank helped to construct this new amenity.



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Welcome Our New Employees!

Preston Derige, D2 Groundskeeper • **Miles Freed**, D4 Groundskeeper • **Lisa Hoopai**, D3 Groundskeeper • **Danielle Young**, D2 Groundskeeper • **Mahdieh Nejad**, D1 Pool Lifeguard • **Jospeh Carter**, D3 Groundskeeper • **Brian Garrett**, D3 Groundskeeper • **Marc Remigio**, D4 Groundskeeper • **Charles Racca**, D4 Groundskeeper • **Iokepa Waialae**, D4 Groundskeeper • **Warren Morton**, Kapi'olani Park Groundskeeper • **Sherwin Abuyo**, D1 Groundskeeper • **Edgardo Napana**, D1 Groundskeeper • **Romel Pagaoa**, Assistant Storekeeper • **Joey Cantiberos**, D4 Groundskeeper • **Iosefa Tavita**, D2 Groundskeeper • **Keane Verdugo**, D3 Groundskeeper • **Elton Suehiro**, D2 Groundskeeper

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Our condolences as former DPR Director Bill Balfour passed away in mid-March. Click [here](#) for service info.
- The annual [Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony](#) is coming up, with our push to make/gather some 38,000 lei to adorn every grave at Punchbowl. Make sure to help out with our Sew a Lei for Memorial Day opportunities.
- Vandals have been [scraping the bark off of False koa trees at Mānoa Valley District Park](#). Removing any item from parks, or damaging street/park trees, is illegal. Please be on the lookout for any tree vandalism and report it.
- Park facility phone and internet service are being upgraded to the city's server. Most of the phone numbers in districts I & II have made the transition, with numbers beginning with "768". Stay tuned for more info.
- CIP Projects finished at: [Kalama BP](#), Crestview CP, Lanakila DP, Waipi'o Soccer Complex, and Waipahu DP. CIP Projects began at: [Pūpūkea BP](#) and [Kuilei Cliffs BP](#), and [Ala Moana Regional Park](#)
- Fiscal Year 2020 budget was proposed and presented to the public & City Council. Some notable highlights include: adding 24 positions in anticipation of Kaka'ako parks transfer, adding a Community Forester position and 3 Nursery Workers to assist with increasing number of city trees and canopy cover, \$1 million to assess and plan repairs to the Koko Head Tramway, \$10 million for sand replenishment at Ala Moana Regional Park, and \$250,000 for lead removal at Koko Head Shooting Complex.

Kākou for Parks Program Updates:

Since 2015, Mayor Caldwell and DPR have continued to show dedication towards revitalizing some of our aging or damaged facilities through this one-of-a-kind program. This has resulted in improvements to **148 different parks** around O'ahu, including:



Nāpuanani Neighborhood Park



Maka'unulau Community Park



Kuli'ou'ou Beach Park

100

New & Refurbished Play Apparatus

81

Renovated Comfort Stations

294

Resurfaced Play Courts

To see a list of all of the improvements, with additional before and after pictures of the repaired facilities, visit the "Mayor's Kākou for Parks" section (under Important Information) of our website parks.honolulu.gov